

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument comprising:

a tubular member having a distal end and a proximal end, for forming an axis;

a partition member disposed in the tubular member in a direction along the axis of the tubular member, for partitioning the inside of the tubular member;

a first shaft disposed in a first channel formed by the partition member such that the first shaft can move in both forward and backward directions;

a second shaft disposed in a second channel formed by the partition member such that the second shaft can move in both forward and backward directions;

an end effector including a pair of jaws;

a base member connected to the second shaft, for supporting the end effector;

a supporting pin for pivotably supporting the base member to mount the end effector on the distal end of the tubular member;

a first connection member connected to the jaws, the first connection member being movable in both forward and backward directions in the base member to open and close the jaws;

a second connection member for connecting the first connection member with the first shaft, the second connection member being movable through a joint formed by the supporting pin, and including a first insertion hole for receiving a first connection pin for connection with the first connection member and a second insertion hole for receiving a second connection pin for connection with the first shaft; and the second connection member being movable between a

location at which the supporting pin and the first insertion hole are coincident with each other and  
a location at which the supporting pin and the second insertion hole are coincident with each  
other;

a first operation control portion connected to the first shaft, for manipulating the end effector via the first shaft; and

a second operation control portion connected with a proximal end of the second shaft, the second operation control portion moving the second shaft in both forward and backward directions to control the angle of the joint.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first operation control portion includes a fixed handle and a movable handle, and wherein a proximal end of the first shaft is detachably connected to the movable handle.
4. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the second operation control portion is a pivot control knob capable of rotating around the tubular member connected, by means of screwing, with a pivot base integrally fixed to a proximal end part of second shaft, for moving the second shaft in a forward or backward direction in response to the rotation of the pivot control knob.
5. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the second operation control portion is a backward/forward-moving knob capable of moving in both forward and backward

directions relative to the tubular member connected, with a pivot base integrally fixed to a proximal end part of second shaft, for moving the second shaft in a forward or backward direction in response to the motion of the backward/forward-moving knob.

6. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, further comprising a third operation control portion disposed in series to the second operation control portion at a location close to the first operation control portion, the third operation control portion including a rotation control knob for rotating the tubular member as a whole about the axis of the first shaft.
7. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 6, wherein the two operation control portions disposed in series at the locations close to the first operation control portion are different in external shape such that the external diameter of the knob located farther from the first operation control portion is set to be greater than the external diameter of the knob located closer to the first operation control portion.
8. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 7, wherein the external diameter, A, of the knob located farther from the first operation control portion and the external diameter, B, of the knob located closer to the first operation control portion are set so as to satisfy the following condition:

$$B < A \leq 2 \times B.$$

9. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 7, wherein the external diameter, A, of the knob located farther from the first operation control portion and the external diameter, B, of the knob located closer to the first operation control portion are set so as to satisfy the following condition:

$$B < A \leq 1.5 \times B.$$

10. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first shaft and the second shaft are formed of a rigid material.